

Application No.: 09/258600
Group Art Unit: 1636
Docket No.: 50370-60637DIV (formerly CPI-012CP4DV)

REMARKS

Claims 43-109 are pending in the application. Claims 43 and 103-108 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 44-49, 52, 54, 56, 57, 61-63, 67, 69, 77, 85, 94, 96, 98 and 102 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 44-102 will be pending in the application upon entry of the instant amendment.

Claims 100, 101 and 109 are allowed, and claims 44, 45, 47, 53, 67, 68, 94, 95, 98 and 99 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 44-46, 48, 49, 52, 54, 56, 57, 61-63, 69, 77, 85, 96 and 102 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 100. Claims 47, 67, 68, 94, 98 and 99 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added.

Amendment and cancellation of the claims here are not to be construed as an acquiescence to any of the rejections/objections made in the instant Office Action or in any previous Office Action, and were done solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed, or substantially similar claims in one or more subsequent patent applications.

Applicants respectfully traverse all the rejections/objections of record as set forth in the instant Office Action. However, without in any way acquiescing to the rejections/objections and in order to expedite prosecution of the application, the claims have been amended as set forth above, thereby obviating all the rejections/objections of record. Applicants submit that claims 44-102 as presented herein are in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note the Examiner's comments regarding the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed June 19, 2003. With regard to the applications identified as I1 and I2, these applications, Ser. No. 09/286,166 and 10/263,341, respectively, were cited to bring to the Examiner's attention related copending applications. Ser. No. 09/286,166 has the same disclosure as U.S. Patent 5,876,951, which issued from Ser. No. 08/461,598 of which the instant application is a divisional. Ser. No. 10,263,341 is a continuation of 09/309,196, which is a

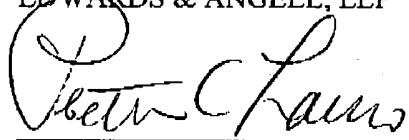
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continuation of Ser. No. 08/322,137 that issued as U.S. Patent 6,100,042. U.S. Patent 6,100,042 is already of record.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments presented herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections, and allowance of this application with claims 44-102. If a telephone call with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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